RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Serial No. 10803,231 Response to Office Action

MAR 0 1 2006

Customer No. 01933

Attorney Docket No. 04132/LH

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

:

Applicant

: 5. YAMANAKA et al

Serial No.

10/803,231

Filed

: March 17, 2004

For

HOLLOW STEPPED SHAFT AND

METHOD OF FORMING THE SAME

Art Unit

3725

Examiner

: BONK, TERESA

Customer No.: 0

01933

RESPONSE- 37 C.F.R. 1.111

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 8, 2006, the term for response to which expires on March 8, 2006.

ELECTION

Applicants hereby elect Invention I, claims 1-5, for further prosecution on the merits, without traverse.

Applicants also elect Species 1, Embodiment shown in Figs. 1-7 and 21-23, without traverse.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO NO. 1-571-273-8300

TOTAL PAGES: 3 I hereby cartify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, on the date noted below.

Nalini P. Sahadoo

Dated: March 1, 2006

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by credit card payment, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.